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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT**19 MARCH 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Cloverdale - Marijuana-Related Home-Invasion Similar to Earlier Sonoma County Crimes

(U) A Cloverdale resident who was the victim of a marijuana-related home invasion robbery on 26 January recently recognized one of the suspects in two other similar home invasion robberies seeking marijuana, cash, and guns. A connection appears likely between the 8 February robberies near Santa Rosa and a predawn home-invasion robbery outside Petaluma city limits on 12 March, according to lawyers familiar with the investigations. According to detectives, local drug dealers are buying California marijuana for between \$700 and \$800 per pound and mailing it to the East Coast where it could sell for anywhere between \$2,200 and \$3,200 per pound.

SOURCE: 16 March 2018, [Press Democrat](#)

(U) San Diego - 115 Undocumented Immigrants Arrested in Three-Day Operation

(U) Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers arrested 115 unauthorized immigrants over a large, three-day operation that ended on 15 March, taking place in San Diego and Imperial Counties. The majority of those arrested were from Mexico, and other arrests included citizens of Honduras, Guatemala, the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, and Peru; 43 percent of those arrested had criminal convictions.

SOURCE: 16 March 2018, [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Texas - Two Injured in Explosion, Fourth Such Incident in a Month

(U) Austin - An explosion that injured two men last night could have been triggered by a tripwire, according to the Austin Police Chief, after a fourth blast in Austin in a little over two weeks. Authorities are working under the belief that the latest incident is connected to the previous three explosions in the city. The police chief said, "it is very possible" that the device "was activated by someone either handling, kicking, or encountering a tripwire that activated the device." The difference with this incident, however, is that the explosive package was not left on a doorstep but was left on the side of the road and used a different triggering mechanism than in the other cases.

SOURCE: 18 March 2018, [NBC News](#)

(U) Texas - Federal Authorities Investigating Cyber Breach at Frost Bank

(U) San Antonio - The FBI and US Secret Service are investigating a data breach at Texas-based Frost Bank that allowed unauthorized users to view and copy archived electronic images of checks, the bank announced on 16 March. The unauthorized access was limited to one third-party lock box software program serving about 470 commercial customers—a fraction of its customer base, according to the bank. The intrusion has reportedly been stopped and did not impact individual consumers.

SOURCE: 16 March 2018, [My San Antonio](#)

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) District of Columbia - Trump to Unveil Opioid Plan Seeking Death Penalty for Drug Dealers**

(U) Washington - President Trump will unveil a plan today to combat the opioid addiction crisis that includes seeking the death penalty for drug dealers and urging Congress to toughen sentencing laws for drug traffickers, according to the White House. The plan will also seek to cut opioid prescriptions by a third over the next three years by promoting practices that reduce over prescription of opioids in federal programs. Current federal law allows for the death penalty in certain drug cases, including murder related to a drug trafficking offense and murder committed during a drug-related drive-by shooting.

SOURCE: 18 March 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) District of Columbia - 47 Additional Cases of Salmonella Linked to Kratom

(U) Washington - Forty-seven more individuals have become ill with salmonella linked to products containing the Southeast Asian plant kratom, according to a 15 March announcement by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This brings the total number of illnesses to 87 people across 35 states since reports of illness began in October. Kratom is sold as a dietary supplement in the form of pills, powders, capsules, and tea made of ground-up leaves from the plant. A stimulant, it is consumed for the treatment of pain and as an opioid substitute to reduce symptoms of withdrawal. A single common brand or supplier of the kratom has not been linked to the outbreak, so the CDC is recommending refraining from consuming any brand.

SOURCE: 17 March 2018, [WTKR](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Egypt - 4 Troops and 36 Militants Killed in Sinai Battle**

(U) Cairo - Egypt's military announced today that four troops and 36 Islamic militants have died in the past five days of fighting in the restive Sinai Peninsula. The statement also said that eight soldiers were wounded, including two officers. The Egyptian military said it also destroyed 400 hideouts, munition, and weapons depots and dismantled 93 explosive devices during the operation. Egypt has been battling Islamic militants for years, but the insurgency gathered steam and grew deadlier after the 2013 ouster of Mohammed Morsi.

SOURCE: 19 March 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Mexico - US Lifts Travel Ban to Playa del Carmen

(U) Mexico City - The United States has lifted its travel warning for Playa del Carmen, and Quintana Roo, following the implementation of new security procedures. The US embassy in Mexico City also lifted a restriction that prohibited government personnel from using ferry services between Playa del Carmen and Cozumel. An undisclosed security threat triggered the US prohibition of US Government personnel from traveling to the popular tourist destination and the brief closure of its consular office there. Also lifted is a 9 March travel warning in which five neighborhoods--including downtown Playa del Carmen--were deemed off-limits for US government employees. US citizens are still urged, however, to be aware of their surroundings and exercise increased caution due to overall crime in Mexico.

SOURCE: 17 March 2018, [Mexico News Daily](#)

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